[Shri K. G. Maheshwarappa]

the Raichur Thermal Station. Unfortunately, the supply of coal from Singareni has been virtually paralysed. The present coal stock is sufficient to meet the requirements of this project for a few days only. If the two units were to start functioning, the total requirement of coal would be 7000 tonnes per day. The Karnataka Power Corporation has been forced to pay exorbitant freight charges to the Southern Railway in view of the transportation of coal by the Southern Railway in a circuitous route of 1078 kms. *via* Vijayawada instead of a shorter route of 630 kms. *via* Secunderabad. Due to this, the Southern Railway has been charging double the freight charge. In spite of the State Government's repeated requests, the Railway Ministry has not resolved this problem.

Secondly, regarding the progress of work of Sharawati Tail End Hydro Electric Project, this project for 240 MW capacity—in the river Sharawati in the Uttar Kanada district—was taken up for execution by the KPC in 1987. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, had given approval for release of 700 acres of land under Section 2 of the Forests Conservation Act, 1980. Environmental clearance was also obtained. This project was executed with the assistance of loan from the World Bank to the extent of 260 million US dollars. Already, an expenditure of Rs. 21 crores and a commitment of Rs. 100 crores have been made. The estimated cost is Rs. 232 crores. For the past two years, the work on the project has practically stopped due to a writ petition filed in the High Court of Karnataka. In its interim order, the Court asked the Central Government on 17-1-91 to reconsider the environmental issue and give its decision within a period of three months. Madam, the Central Government has not yet taken any step till today, though the period allowed by the High Court expired long back. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has also written to the Prime Minister to intervene in the matter. There are other projects pending clearance with the Central Government. I am not referring to them in this Special Mention. I strongly urge the Energy Ministry, the Railway Ministry and the Environment Ministry to take immediate action in respect of the aforestid two projects.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As decided by the House, the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will be taken up on the next working day, i.e. Tuesday. At 2.30 p.m., when we reassemble after the lunch recess, we will have Private Members' Business. The House is now adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice -Chairman (Dr. Nagen Saikia)** in the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Tuesday, 3rd September, 1991, will consist of:

Discussion on the working of the Ministries of:

1. Labour
2. Commerce
3. Textiles.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Now we will take up legislative business. Bills for introduction. Shri Ramdas Agarwal, not present. Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu.